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Catawba language

Catawba (/kəˈtɔːbə/) is one of two Eastern Siouan languages of the eastern US, which together with the Western Siouan languages formed the Siouan language family.

The last native speaker of Catawba died before 1960.[1] Red Thunder Cloud, apparently an impostor born Cromwell Ashbie Hawkins West, claimed to speak the language until he died in 1996 (Goddard 2000). The Catawba tribe is now working to revive the Catawba language.

Catawba	
Katapa	
Native to	United States
Region	South Carolina
Ethnicity	Ye Iswąʾ (Catawba)
Extinct	1959, with the death of Samuel Taylor Blue[1]
Language family	Siouan ▪ Eastern ▪ **Catawba**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	chc
Glottolog	cata1286 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cata1286)[2]
Linguasphere	64-ABA-ab

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Phonology

Consonants

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	voiceless	p	t		k	ʔ
	voiced	b	d			
Affricate				tʃ		
Fricative			s	ʃ		h
Trill			r			
Nasal		m	n			
Approximant		w		j		

There is also a [ɡ] sound, which happens to be an allophone of /k/. /ʃ/ is rare.

Vowels

	Short	Long	Nasal
Close	i	iː	ĩ
Mid	e	eː	ẽ
Open	a	aː	ã
Back	u	uː	ũ

Short vowel sounds /i, e, a, u/ can be unstressed, ranging to [ɪ, ə~ɛ, ɑ, ʊ]. Back vowel sounds can range from /u/ to [o], and a short /a/ can range to a back vowel sound [ɑ].[3]

References

1. Catawba (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/chc/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Catawba" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cata1286). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Rudes, Costa, Blair, David (2003). *Essays in Algonquian, Catawban, and Siouan Linguistics in Memory of Frank T. Siebert, Jr*.

External links

- Ives Goddard, 2000. "The Identity of Red Thunder Cloud" (https://anthropology.si.edu/goddard1.html), Smithsonian Institution, reprinted from *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas Newsletter*. (accessed 8 Apr 2010)
- Catawba Indian Language (http://www.native-languages.org/catawba.htm)
- Catawba Texts

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